

Maine Maritime Museum Library

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**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS-38**

Captain Rufus Soule Randall
Inclusive dates 1746-1946
Bulk dates – 1855 to 1886

by
Tracy Lamaestra
(Edited by Anastasia Weigle)
March 2012

Shelf feet: 3.5
Number of boxes: 6
Accession 71.110, 87.31

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Abstract

Randall, Rufus Soule, Captain (b. 1830-d. 1888)

Papers, 1746-1946 (Bulk dates: 1855-1886)

5 manuscript boxes and 1 oversize box

Ship captain and owner from Freeport, Maine.

Vessel and personal papers of Captain Rufus Soule Randall, a ship master of various vessels including the *John A. Briggs* (Ship), *Oasis* (Bark), *Windward* (Bark), *Acacia* (Bark), *Ella & Annie* (Bark), *Annie W. Goddard* (Brig), *New Empire* (Bark), and *Gertrude* (Bark). The documents also contain a Thomas Scales account book and an Andrew Jackson memorandum, which could not be linked to Captain Rufus Randall or the Randall family. The collection has the following groups: Series I. Vessel Papers, Series II. Personal Papers, Series III. Maritime Trade Publications and Circulars.

Donated by Mr. and Mrs. L. M. C. Smith in April 1971, Willis S. Randall on June 6, 1977 and Charlotte Bauer on July 6, 1987.

MS-38, Accession Nos. 71.110.88-93, 71.110.103-105, 71.110.107-109, 71.110.115-116, 71.110.118-121, 71.110.136, 87.31.

Related material in repository: 73.170 (Transcribed interview of Helen K. Randall).

Finding aid in repository, folder level control.

Added Entries—persons

Jackson, Andrew

Randall, Rufus Soule, *Captain*

Scales, Thomas

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels)

Acacia (Bark)

Annie W. Goddard (Brig)

Ella & Annie (Bark)

Gertrude (Bark)

John A. Briggs (Ship)

New Empire (Bark),

Oasis (Bark)

Windward (Bark)

Added entries—key terms

Account books [not LC]

Crew Lists [not LC]

Diaries

Log-books [inc. abstract logs; s. a. Summaries of voyages]

Merchant seamen

Seamanship

Ships

Ship captains

Shipping

Ships—Cargo

Wages

Acquisition

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. C. Smith donated the Captain Rufus Soule Randall logbooks, diaries and other documents in addition to many objects to the Maine Maritime Museum between April 18 and 29, 1971, accession no. 71.110. Charlotte Bauer donated the assorted documents belonging to Rufus S. Randall July 6, 1987, accession no. 87.31.

Provenance

Mr. and Mrs. L. M. C. Smith purchased the material from Mrs. Helen Keazer Randall (b. 1886) daughter of Captain Rufus Soule Randall. Willis Shaw Randall donated diaries and journals on June 7, 1977, which were made part of the 1971 donation. Willis Shaw Randall (b. 1910) of Freeport, Maine was the grandson of Captain Randall. Charlotte Bauer gave additional papers in the collection to the Museum on July 6, 1987.

The Captain Rufus Soule Randall papers were originally contained in MS-38 (acc. # 71.110) and MS-167 (acc. # 87.31). The papers (MS-38 and MS-167) were kept separate due to different accession dates of 1971 and 1987. We found these two collections (MS-38 and MS-167) had a direct relationship to each other as they once belonged to Captain Rufus Soule Randall and were a representation of his life as a shipmaster. In order to preserve provenance, Captain Rufus Soule Randall papers in MS-167 were merged with MS-38 into a single MS-38 collection.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research.

Physical Condition

Many of the papers have surface dirt. Some manuscripts are discolored and stained. Others have creases with minor tears on edges or fold lines. These can be easily repaired with thin, transparent document repair tape. Those with heavier crease lines will require flattening with a tacking iron at low to medium heat. A number of manuscripts have missing pieces and holes. Some have frayed or curled edges. Several documents are glued together. A number of manuscripts are torn from account or log books. We removed metal fasteners from several of the papers. Fragile manuscripts were sleeved. The Letter Copy Book of Rufus S. Randall is of fine tissue paper and needs to be handled with care. This book has stains and faded writing.

Archival jackets were made for diaries, journals, account books and memorandum to preserve integrity. Many of the diaries have dirty covers. Diary 1865 has a missing rear cover. Diary 1876 has torn pages, missing pieces and no covers. Loose diary sheets and papers found in diaries were placed in Mylar and kept with diaries. The artwork found in the letter copybook of Rufus S. Randall was housed in Mylar and placed inside this letter book.

Journal 1842-1880 has missing pages, frayed edges, loose pages, stains and the binding is loose. Journal 1868-1870 is dirty, worn and acidic with missing pages. Many of the account

books have missing or loose pages. Other account book pages have tears or missing pieces. Account books are worn, dirty and discolored. A number of the account books have loose bindings. Account Book 1872-1881 has no cover. Several account books have glued in papers, articles or images. Loose papers found in account books were sleeved and marked for identification. Account Book 1746-1788 is fragile, dirty, warped, folded, creased and in poor condition. This account book was placed in an archival jacket.

Logbooks have missing or loose pages with tears, stains and folded edges. Most have weak bindings. Log Book 1855-1856 has glued in newspaper engravings and etchings. The writing in Log Book 1878-1879 is faded.

Biographical Notes

Captain Rufus Soule Randall (b.1830-d.1888)

Captain Rufus Soule Randall was born on October 3, 1830 in Freeport, Maine to Robert J. Randall and Lydia Mitchell. In 1840, the father (Robert J. Randall, a sea captain) was drowned at sea after he was washed overboard from the *Cairo* (Ship) on a voyage from Havana to Mobile. The Randalls were left nearly poverty-stricken after the loss of their father. Family and friends built a small house for them after Grandfather Robert Randall gave them some land on the Upper Mast Landing Road in Freeport.

Captain Rufus Randall married Ann Starkey Townsend (b. 1842, daughter of Earle Townsend and Sarah Holt) on January 11, 1872 in Portland, Maine. They had children, Caroline Luce (b. 1874), Rufus Starkey (b. 1875), Robert Earle (b. 1877), Thomas Cummings (b. 1878), John Briggs (b. 1880), Russell Lewis (b. 1881), Neal Dow (b. 1884) and Helen Keazer (b. 1886). Captain Randall, wife and children lived at sea from 1872 to March 1877. Caroline Luce was born aboard the *Oasis* (Bark) while in port in Bristol, England. Rufus Starkey was born in Rio de Janeiro on the same vessel. John Briggs was born at sea on the *John A. Briggs* (Ship).

Captain Randall voyaged on the *Nathan Nye* (Sloop) as a cook and “roustabout” boy in the summers of 1841 to 1844 for shipmasters Robert Soule, Daniel Grant, and Rufus C. Soule. (Randall, p. 3). This vessel ran from Porter’s Landing to Portland, Maine. He was hired as a cook and general boy aboard the *Martha Ann* (Schooner) by Captain Charles Lambert at 15. Captain Randall worked on the *Harriet Rogers* (Schooner), *James Calder* (Ship), *Avola* (Bark), *Madonna* (Bark), *Eliza* (Brig), *Empire* (Bark), *Forest State* (Ship) and *Lady Suffolk* (Bark) among others as a cook, general boy, second mate or chief mate. He was second mate at twenty on the *Forest State* (Ship) under Captain Pollister. At 25, he was promoted to master aboard the *New Empire* (Bark). In 1857, on a voyage to Boston with a cargo of cotton the *New Empire* (Bark) with Randall as shipmaster collided with the Minot Ledge Lighthouse due to a strong gale. The bark survived with a damaged bottom, but the lighthouse was destroyed. Captain Randall also commanded the *John A. Briggs* (Ship), *Oasis* (Bark), *Windward* (Bark), *Acacia* (Bark), *Ella and Annie* (Bark), *Annie W. Goddard* (Brig) and *Gertrude* (Bark). He became a well-known Freeport captain. Moreover, he was part owner of the *Oasis* (Bark), *Acacia* (Bark) and *John A. Briggs* (Ship). A mutiny occurred while aboard the *Ella and Annie* (Bark) in 1868. Captain Randall was cut three times when he intervened between three sailors attempting to stab the cook. The mutineers were shackled, confined and taken to Portland to be held over for trial. He commanded the *Oasis* (Bark) from 1871 to 1879. Captain Randall sailed on the *Oasis* (Bark) from Portland to Peru to New York. The *John A. Briggs* (Ship) with Captain Randall as

shipmaster was the largest vessel ever launched in Freeport in 1878. Maine Governor Seldon Conner and Congressman James A. Garfield (later president) attended this festivity. On September 25, 1878 Captain Randall, wife and three children sailed on the *John A. Briggs* (Ship) to Philadelphia and then on to Germany. In 1881, he began to spend more time ashore at his home in Freeport with an interest in farming. From 1882-1884, Captain Randall sporadically voyaged to Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey to care for the *Oasis* (Bark) and *John A. Briggs* (Ship).

Randall retired as a sea captain after a final voyage, 1885 to 1886, on the *John A. Briggs* (Ship). He lived the rest of his life in Freeport with his family. Captain Randall died on May 6, 1888 (Rootsweb notes his date of death as July 6, 1888) in Freeport, Maine. His wife died on March 19, 1918 in Melrose, Massachusetts.

References cited:

1. "Historic House Series, No.7: Captain Rufus Soule Randall Homestead, 186 Main Street." The Dash (Winter 2007): 4-5.
2. <http://wcrootsweb.ancestry.com>. 10 February 2012 and 27 February 2012.
3. Randall, Rufus S. "A Seaman's Own Story: Rufus S. Randall, 1830-1888." Maine Maritime Museum Research Library, VK140.R35A3.
4. Thurston, Florence G. and Harmon S. Cross. Three Centuries of Freeport Maine. Freeport, Maine: 1940.

Thomas Scales (b.1721-d.1786)

Thomas Scales was born in 1721 in North Yarmouth, Maine to William and Susannah Scales. He married Elizabeth Richmond (b. December 22, 1726 in Dighton, Massachusetts) in October 1752. They had children Sylvester Richmond, Samuel, Sylvester Richmond II, William, Elizabeth, Thomas, Mary and Nathaniel. He operated the Military Company C in North Yarmouth as a clerk. He was also the deacon of the First Parish Church and town selectman of Yarmouth. Scales died on April 10, 1786 in North Yarmouth, Maine. Thomas Scales could not be linked to Captain Rufus Randall or the Randall family. The account book of Scales was assigned accession no. 71.110.108.

References cited:

1. <http://wcrootsweb.ancestry.com>. 24 February 2012.
2. Yarmouth Historical Society.

Andrew Jackson (b.1830-d.1895)

Andrew Jackson was born July 2, 1830 in Portland, Maine to Samuel Jackson. He married Harriet Emily Crooker (b. October 12, 1832 in Bath) on September 18, 1853. They had children Frank Cooker (b. 1854), Clara Ellen (b. 1861), Richard Willis (b. 1861), Charles Thurston (b. 1863) and Alice Harriet (b. 1867). Jackson was a commission merchant and auctioneer on Front Street in Bath, Maine. He died in 1895 at Bath. Andrew Jackson could not be linked to Captain Rufus Randall or the Randall family. The memorandum of Jackson was assigned, accession no. 71.110.107.

References cited:

1. <http://search.ancestry.com>. 29 February 2012 and 2 March 2012.

2. <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com>. 2 March 2012.
3. MS-38. Series IV. Memorandum, 1863-1876. Loose Paper: Commission and Merchant Auctioneer Article.

Scope and Content Notes

The Captain Rufus Soule Randall papers consist of 5 manuscript boxes and 1 oversize box relating to Captain Randall as a sea captain. The papers are primarily vessel documents for the *John A. Briggs* (Ship) and *Oasis* (Bark). Account summaries, accounts general, account books, invoices, and receipts detail the financial scope of Captain Randall's involvement in the shipping industry. Collection contents also include correspondence, registration, insurance, certificates, charter parties, freight and cargo, crew lists, crew wages, crew accounts, articles of agreement, slop accounts, and consul certificates among other maritime documents.

Personal papers capture Captain Randall's life at home in Freeport, Maine. Diaries, journals and logbooks chronicle the life of Captain Randall at sea. Vessel records in the collection also include the *Pleiades* (Ship), *Windward* (Bark), *Acacia* (Bark), *Ella and Annie* (Bark), *Annie W. Goddard* (Brig), *Gertrude* (Bark) and *New Empire* (Bark).

The collection records foreign and domestic trade, sea routes, nineteenth-century ports, shipping business, merchants, manufacturers, operations, finance, contracts, types of cargo, costs, crew wages, crewmen, mutiny and a captain's perspective at sea. Moreover, Randall remarks about his family accompanying him on voyages in writings. In addition, there is an account book for Thomas Scales, 1746-1788. I could not link Captain Randall to Scales at this time. This account book records business transactions between Thomas Scales and patrons at the Military Company C in North Yarmouth, Maine. Furthermore, there is a memorandum marked "A. Jackson of Bath, Maine, 1869" inside the cover. Assorted vessels, names, renters, notes and accounts are recorded by Andrew Jackson. I could find no link of Captain Randall to Andrew Jackson at this time.

Lastly, there are numerous maritime trade publications and circulars.

Processing Notes

The manuscript papers were already loosely organized. The collection was grouped into three series. Series I: Vessel papers, Series II Personal Papers and Series III Maritime Publications and Circulars. The first series is sorted into three subseries: Subseries IA. *John A. Briggs* (Ship), Subseries IB. *Oasis* (Bark) and Subseries IC. Other vessels. Series II Personal papers is sorted into three subseries: Subseries IIA. Capt. Rufus S. Randall Papers, Subseries IIB: Andrew Jackson Papers and Subseries IIC. Thomas Scales papers.

The Captain's diaries can be of a personal nature, vessel related or both. We have placed those diaries that are predominately vessel related with the vessel papers. The diaries that are predominately personal in nature, but makes reference to a vessel or vessels were placed with the personal papers.

Organization and Description of Series

Series I. Vessel Papers

Subseries IA. *John A. Briggs* (Ship)

Subseries IB. *Oasis* (Bark)

Subseries IC. Other vessels

Series II. Personal Papers

Subseries IIA. Capt. Rufus S. Randall Papers

Subseries IIB. Andrew Jackson Papers

Subseries IIC. Thomas Scales Papers

Series III. Maritime trade publications and circulars

Series I. Vessel Papers (1842-1901): Various vessel papers for the *John A Briggs* (Ship), *Oasis* (Bark), *Annie W. Goddard* (Brig), *New Empire* (Bark), *Windward* (Bark) and *Gertrude* (Bark) Ella & Annie (Bark), *Windward*, *Annie W. Goddard* (Brig), *New Empire* (Bark). Included are registration, insurance, correspondence, account books, general accounts, charter parties, freight and cargo, crew wages, Seaman time books, crew lists, articles of agreement, slop accounts, Captain's diaries, journals and log books. This series is grouped into three subseries:

Subseries IA. *John A. Briggs* (Ship) 1874-1901

Subseries IB. *Oasis* (Bark) 1871-1883

Subseries IC. Other various vessels 1842-1880

Note: Diaries are transcribed, see "A Seaman's Own Story: Rufus S. Randall, 1830-1888" Maine Maritime Museum Research Library, VK140.R35A3.

Series II. Personal Papers (1841-1946): This series is sorted into three subseries. The first subseries is for Capt. Rufus S. Randall. His personal papers seem to have been created when he lived in Freeport, Maine. Papers include purchases abroad for his residence, correspondence, personal accounts, personal diaries, home specifications and an estate inventory. The second subseries is for an Andrew Jackson and contains a memorandum with "A. Jackson, Bath, Maine, 1869" inscribed inside the cover. Andrew Jackson records assorted vessels, names, renters, notes and accounts. The third subseries is for a Thomas Scales and contains a miscellaneous account book of Thomas Scales of business transactions between Scales and patrons at the Military Company C in North Yarmouth, Maine from 1746-1788.

Series III. Maritime trade publications and circulars (1863-1882): Various maritime trade publications and circulars. The Benham, Pickering & Co. weekly freight report was publication out of New York and would list charters for the week. The Chas. T. Russell & Co's Monthly Freight Report was a publication out of London gave information on prices current and market reports in the maritime freighting business. Heinemann & Co. Freight Circular printed out of Hong Kong gave information about the freight market and listed freight settlement's for various voyages out of Hong Kong. J. W. Grace & Co. Shipping and Commission Merchants published out of California listed freight engagements including list of vessel sailed, loaded or sold. It kept shipbrokers up-to-date on any changes in the shipping industry. The San Francisco Trade Review, the Savannah Prices Current and Whitney Brothers & Co.'s Market Report kept ship

brokers and merchants up to date on various freight and charters, trade, financial and commercial shipping information, vessels at port or sailing, etc.

MS-38 CAPTAIN RUFUS S. RANDALL COLLECTION

Finding Aid

Box# Folder#

SERIES I. VESSEL PAPERS

Subseries 1A. *John A. Briggs* (Ship)

- | | | |
|------|----|--|
| 1 | 1 | Letter Copy Books, 1874-1880, includes letter re: <i>Oasis</i> (Bark)
[A drawing found in letter copy book, n.d.] |
| | 2 | Correspondence, 1880-1881 |
| | | Accounts—general |
| | 3 | Philadelphia, Oct.-Nov. 1878 |
| | 4 | Bremen, Jan. 1879 |
| | 5 | Cardiff, March 1879 |
| | 6 | Hong Kong & Singapore, Aug. & Oct. 1879 |
| | 7 | San Francisco, Jan. 1880 |
| | 8 | Cardiff, Feb.-May. 1880 |
| | 9 | Hong Kong, Oct. 1880 |
| | 10 | San Francisco, Dec. 1880-Jan. 1881 |
| | 11 | Antwerp, June-July 1881 |
| | 12 | Portland, Sept.-Oct. 1881 |
| | 13 | Accounts—Charter Parties, 1879-1886 |
| | 14 | Accounts—Freight and Cargo, 1880-1881 |
| | | Accounts—Crew |
| | 15 | Articles of Agreement, 1880 |
| | 16 | Seaman Time Book, 1878-1881 |
| | 17 | Crew Wages, n.d., 1880-1881 |
| | 18 | Slop Accounts, 1886 |
| | | Log Books |
| | 19 | 1873 |
| 6 OS | — | 1878-1879 |
| | 20 | 1878-1891 |
| | | Captain's Diary |
| | 21 | 1881 |
| | 22 | Miscellaneous, Trade publications/circulars, 1879-890 |

Subseries 1A. *Oasis* (Bark)

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|
| 2 | 1 | Registration, 1872 |
| | 2 | Insurance, 1883 |
| | 3 | Correspondence, 1873-1875, n. d. |
| | | Accounts |
| | 4 | Voyage Account Book 1872-1881 |
| | | Accounts general |

- 5 New York, Nov. 1871-Jan. 1872
- 6 Isle of Skilly • Antwerp, Nov.-Dec. 1872
- 7 Cardiff • Singapore, Jan.-Feb. 1873
- 8 Guanape Islands & Callao, June-Oct. 1873
- 9 Bristol, June-July 1874
- 10 Callao, Feb. 1876
- 11 Havre, Oct. 1876
- 12 New York, June 1882
- 13 Accounts—Charter party, 1874
- Accounts—Crew
- 14 Crew lists, 1872
- 15 Seaman Time Book, 1874-76
- 16 Seaman Time Book, 1876-1879
- [Includes wages for the crew bark *John A. Briggs*]
- 17 Crew wages, n.d., 1873
- 18 Crew wages, 1874
- 19 Crew wages, 1875
- 3 Captain's Diaries
- 1 1871-1875
- 2 1874-1880

Subseries IC. Other vessels

Acacia (Bark)

- 3 Captain's Diary, 1865

Annie W. Goddard (Brig)

- 4 Captain's Diary, 1869-72

Ella & Annie (Bark)

- 5 Captain's Daily Journal, 1868-71
- 6 Captain's Diary, 1867 and 1868

Pleiades (Ship)

- 7 Accounts, receipt for duties and fees, 1880

Windward (Bark)

- 8 Captain's Diary, 1863, 1864

- 6 OS — Accounts book (1857-1867) for various vessels
(Barks *New Empire*, *Windward*, and *Ella & Annie*)
- 6 OS — Accounts book (1856-1879) for various vessels
(Barks *Ella & Annie*, *New Empire*, *Oasis*, *Windward*, *Gertrude*, brig *Annie W. Goddard* and ship *John A Briggs*)

- 6 OS — Captain's Journal for vessels. Ships *James Calder* and *Forest State*, barks *New Empire*, *Empire Joshua* and *Ella & Annie* (includes wages) 1842-1880
- 6 OS — Ship's Log Book, *New Empire* (Bark) 1855-1856

SERIES II. PERSONAL PAPERS

Subseries IIA. Capt. Rufus S. Randall

- 4 1 Correspondence, 1881, 1884, 1894
Accounts, personal
- 2 1871-74
- 3 1877-78
- 4 1879
- 5 1880-81
- 6 1885-87
- 7 1946, Miss Helen K. Randall, receipt, New England Telephone
- 8 Specification, Randall homestead, 1877, costs for building
- 9 Estate Inventory of Carrie S. Randall—Guardianship Record, 1888
- Personal Diaries
- 10 1866, references to *Ella & Annie* (Bark)
Loose Diary pages dated 1868
1882, reference to *John A. Briggs* (Ship), *Oasis* (Bark)
1883-1884, references to *Oasis* (Bark), and *John A. Briggs* (Ship)
- 11 1884
1885-1886, references to *Oasis* (Bark)
1887, references to *John A. Briggs* (Ship)
1888, references to *Oasis* (Bark) and Freeport, Maine

Subseries IIB. Andrew Jackson Papers

- 5 1 Memorandum, 1863-1876

Subseries IIC. Thomas Scales Papers

- 2 Account Book, 1746-1788
(Military Company C of North Yarmouth, Maine)

SERIES III. MARITIME TRADE PUBLICATIONS AND CIRCULARS

- 3 "Benham Pickering and Company, Weekly Freight Report," 1881, 1882
- 4 "Chas. T. Russell and Co.'s, Freight Report," 1880, 1882
- 5 Heinemann & Co. Circular Freight, 1879
- 6 "J. W. Grace and Co. Shipping and Commission Merchants," 1878, 1882
- 7 San Francisco Trade Review, 1881
- 8 The Savannah Prices Current, 1878
- 9 The Weekly Junior Register, 1863
- 10 "Whitney Brothers and Co.'s Market Report," 1878